

“Fan Fan”. The grandson had been impressed that she had a big fan she used in warm weather, one of the type funeral homes provided to churches in those days. He was also impressed with her saying “Ah Pshaw” when she felt vexed which was about as vociferous as she ever got. Lizzie was well read and “highly esteemed” in the community as her obituary mentioned. She was a stickler for good manners as she saw them, to the point of not letting the ice tinkle when she stirred her tea. Unique expressions were: she wanted to “pause” at the post office to get the mail and she expected to do something “soon of a morning” meaning early in the day.

A particularly telling effort on Lizzie and Jay’s part was during the flu epidemic of 1917. The epidemic hit Farmville hard as it did many places. The oldest son, Arch, was in school at Wake Forest at the time and Curtis was still at home. By some miracle, none of the four had the flu. To help look after the neighbors, every morning she would get the house going while Jay went down town to buy supplies for her to make soup and bread to take to the neighbors. Curtis was not in school because of the epidemic so his job was to leave a bucket of coal on everyone’s porch and collect the ashes they left. Then at midday, Jay and Curtis would deliver food to everyone. So many people died and were sick funerals often had to postponed -- there were not enough people who could walk under their own power to be pallbearers. After many weeks people slowly recovered and the neighbors wanted to repay them for all the food. Jay refused payment saying they were just thankful they could help. Lizzie and Jay did allow the neighbors to give Curtis a gift of a ball, bat and glove which was pure gold to him.